

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20 STR-08

CEA-02 AGR-20 INT-08 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 271707Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7123

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 2697

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, US, CG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU-REYNOLDS MEETING MARCH 26

REF: KINSHASA 2696

1. REYNOLDS ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER AMBASSADOR RICE AND KEATING CALLED ON MOBUTU MARCH 26. LATTER HAD BEEN WELL BRIEFED ON REYNOLDS' PROPOSAL (REFTEL) AND WAS ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. MOBUTU SAID DESPITE ZAIRIANIZATION MEASURES TAKEN LAST NOVEMBER, REYNOLDS' VISIT WAS PROOF US INVESTORS STILL INTERESTED IN ZAIRE. ALTHOUGH MEASURES HAD BEEN DENOUNCED IN FOREIGN PRESS, THEY HAD TO BE TAKEN FOR BENEFIT OF COUNTRY. ENTERPRISES AFFECTED WERE THOSE ZAIRIANS COULD RUN. IN COLONIAL TIMES BELGIANS HAD GIVEN LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR ZAIRIANS TO BECOME EVEN SMALL SHOPKEEPERS. MOBUTU PROMISED NO AMERICAN INDUSTRIES IN ZAIRE HAD BEEN OR WOULD BE AFFECTED BY ZAIRIANIZATION. HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY ACHIEVEMENTS OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN ZAIRE AND NOTED RESPONSE OF US INVESTORS TO HIS 1970 INVITATION HAD BEEN GOOD.

3. PRESIDENT REYNOLDS SAID PROPOSED JOINT VENTURE COULD
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MAKE ZAIRE ONE OF WORLD'S MAJOR PRODUCERS OF ALUMINUM

THEREBY LESSENING DEPENDENCE ON COPPER. REYNOLDS PROPOSING CREATE INTEGRATED ALUMINUM INDUSTRY FROM MINE TO FINISHED PRODUCTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ZAIRE. ALTHOUGH BAUXITE DEPOSITS NEAR INGA NOT SUITABLE FOR EXPORT, REYNOLDS THOUGHT THEY COULD BE PROCESSED LOCALLY. HE STRESSED NECESSITY TO HAVE LOW RATE ESTABLISHED FOR INGA POWER.

4. MOBUTU SAID THAT REYNOLDS' PROPOSAL WAS EXACTLY WHAT ZAIRE WANTED AT THIS STAGE. EARLIER OFFERS BY ALUMINUM COMPANIES HAD BEEN AIMED AT PRODUCTION OF INGOTS FOR EXPORT.

5. REYNOLDS SAID HE WAS ALSO READY TO COOPERATE WITH GOZ IN OTHER FIELDS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, PLASTICS, MINING EQUIPMENT. MOBUTU EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THESE IDEAS BUT HAD TO TERMINATE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

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